

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 5079

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ANC MEETING SEPT 17, 1975: AGENDA ITEM II-
STANDARDIZATION

REFS: A. STATE 219715 DTG 152312Z SEP 75

B. USNATO 4901 DTG 101215Z SEP 75 (NOTAL)

C. USNATO 5016 DTG 151750Z SEP 75 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) HELD INITIAL DISCUSSIONS
ON STANDARDIZATION AT SEPT 17 MEETING, CHANGED AT LAST MINUTE
FROM SEPT 19 BECAUSE OF SCHEDULE CONFLICTS. ALLIED REACTIONS TO
US PROPOSALS WERE FAVORABLE, ALTHOUGH GENERAL IN NATURE, AND
FRANCE CONFIRMED WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN NAC DISCUSSIONS
LEADING TO DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND IMPLEMENTATION
MEASURES. AMB. DE ROSE (FRANCE) CAUTIONED THAT FRENCH PARTICIPATION
SHOULD NOT BE MISCONSTRUED AS A CHANGE IN BASIC FRNECH POLICY
TOWARD NATO. SEVERAL ALLIES EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT
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COMPOSTION AND FUNCTION OF PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE,
CITING POSSIBLE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND PROSPECT OF YET ANOTHER
INSTITUTIONALIZED NATO COMMITTEE. NAC WILL MEET IN APPROXIMATELY
TWO WEEKS TO RECEIVE ALLIES INSTRUCTED VIEWS ON US PROPOSALS

FOR ADVANCING STANDARDIZATION IN NATO. WE ARE PLEASED AT INITIAL REACTIONS AND EXPECT SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE, THE DETAILS OF WHICH MAY HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED. END SUMMARY.

1. SYG LUNS INTRODUCED AGENDA ITEM ON STANDARDIZATION BY REFERRING TO AN EARLIER PERMREP DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT (AT LUNCHEON SEPT 9, REF B) DIRUNG WHICH HE SAW GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE NAC TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER. LUNS NOTED THA THE ISSUE INVOLVED " PROCUREMENT OF ARMAMENTS", WHICH HE SAID MIGHT BE A BETTER PHRASE THAN STANDARDIZATION. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE NAC WAS NOW BEGINNING DISCUSSIONS AND TURNED TO AMB BRUCE FOR ELABORATION.

2. AMB BRUCE MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE:

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE TIME HAS COME FOR A RENEWED EFFORT BY ALLIES TO COOPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN USING SCARCE RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

TO BE SURE, THE ALLIANCE HAS TALKED ABOUT IMPROVED STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY FOR YEARS. DESPITE SOME PROGRESS IN CERTAIN AREAS, WE HAVE, HOWEVER, CONTINUED AN UNFORTUNATE TREND TOWARD THE UNCOORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO PERFORM SIMILAR TASKS AT A TIME WHEN WEAPONS ARE BECOMING EVER MORE COMPLEX AND COSTLY.

THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO JOIN WITH OTHER ALLIES IN A SERIOUS EFFORT OT REVERSE THIS TREND.

IN THE NUNN AMENDMENT OF AUGUST 1974, OUR CONGRESS ENDORSED STANDARDIZATION INNATO AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS PROVIDED FURTHER VIEWS BOTH IN HIS FIRST REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON STANDARDIZATIONOF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND IN HIS REMARKS TO THE MAY 1975 DPC MINISTERIAL.

AT THE SUMMIT MEETING IN MAY, PRESIDENT FORD SPOKE OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF MILITARY EQUIPEMTN IN NATO. HE ALSO CALLED FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT ON A MORE SENSIBLE DIVISION OF WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES.
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IN CALLING FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY IN NATO, THE US BELIEVES THAT THEY ARE NOT ENDS THEMSELVES. RATHER THEY MUST SERVE TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES AND THEREFORE ENHANCE COMBAT CAPABILITY.

TRUE COOPERATION IN THESE ENDEAVORS CARRIES IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. WE THEREFORE BELEIVE THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IS THE PROPER FORUM TO BEGIN OUR WORK.

TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL, THE UNITED STATES SUGGESTS THAT TWE ESTABLISH A STEERING COMMITTEE TO BE CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PANSA AND TO INCLUDE SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM ALL NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT AND FOR DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY AGENCY

FOR STANDARDIZATION AND A SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

WE BELIEVE THAT AMONG THEIR TASKS, THE STEERING COMMITTEE COULD DEVELOP, ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL VIEWS, A STATEMENT OF BASIC PRINCIPLES ON STANDARDIZATION, SURVEY AND REPORT ON STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES AMONG ALLIES, AND IF POSSIBLE, DEVELOP AN INITIAL PLAN FOR PHASED SELECTION OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

WE ENVISAGE THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD REPORT ITS PROGRESS TO THE COUNCIL ON A REGULAR BASIS, LEADING TO, AS A FIRST STEP, DECEMBER 1975 MINISTERIAL ENDORSEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON STANDARDIZATION AND APPROVAL FOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREED PRINCIPLES.

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I SHOULD POINT OUT AT THIS TIME THAT WE CONSIDER THIS WORK BY THE NORTHATLANTIC COUNCIL AS BEING COMPLEMENTARY TO OTHER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS ELSEWHERE IN NATO FORA.

ON A RELATED POINT, THE UNITED STATES IS MOST INTERESTED IN DEALING WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES ON A BASIS WHICH WOULD COMPLEMENT EUROPEAN COOPERATION, BOTH IN DEALING WITH NORTH AMERICA AND IN RATIONALIZING EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES.

IN SUMMARY, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT ALLIES, WORKING TOGETHER, CAN SURMOUNT THE MANY POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY OBSTACLES TO GREATER STANDARDIZATION.

I AM DISTRIBUTING COPIES OF THIS STATEMENT AND AN ADDITIONAL

PAPER SETTING FORTH PRELIMINARY UNITED STATES VIEWS ON THE ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION, WHICH WE OFFER FOR CONSIDERATION AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AT A LATER DATE.

END QUOTE.

3. CHAIRMAN OF MILITARY COMMITTEE REP (LTGEN COLLADAY, USAF)
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THEN MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE:

THE NMAS RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GREATER STANDARDIZATION OF ARMAMENT, LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND INTER-OPERABILITY OF FORCES AND THEREFORE, I BELIEVE, WILL WELCOME THE US INITIATIVE WHICH SERVES TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES, THEREBY ENHANCING COMBAT CAPABILITIES. WITH THIS IN MIND, A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS WAS INITIATED SOME TIME AGO WITHIN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO STUDY WAYS FOR IMPROVING NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARMAMENTS COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME TO SUMMARIZE FOR THE COUNCIL THIS MILITARY COMMITTEE ACTION.

A PAPER IS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED-- NOT YET APPROVED-- WHICH WOULD PROPOSE:

A. AN INCREASE IN THE NATO FORWARD LOOK AND PLANNING TIME-TABLES. THIS WOULD BE DONE BY THE FORMULATION OF A DEFENSE EQUIPMENT CYCLE TO RUN CONCURRENTLY WITH THE DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW.

B. THE NEED FOR A GREATER INPUT FROM NATIONS.

C. AN IMPROVED INTERNAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION IN NATO HEADQUARTERS.

THIS PAPER IS BEING PROCESSED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TWO ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL CONCERNED. CONSIDERATION OF THE US PROPOSALS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THIS MILITARY COMMITTEE EFFORT.

END QUOTE.

4. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) THANKED SYG LUNS FOR HIS ENCOURAGEMENT OF STANDARDIZATION CONSULTATIONS " AMONG "15" SAYING THAT DISCUSSION OF ARMS PRODUCTION IS A "DELUSION" WITHOUT FRENCH PARTICIPATION. HE ALSO THANKED BRUCE FOR THE US INITIATIVE, AND FAVORABLY NOTED " TREND" OF EFFORTS BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND MINISTER MASON (UK) TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM IN DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE (DPC) AND EUROPE RESPECTIVELY. DE STAERCKE SAID THESE EFFORTS DEMONSTRATED PROPER " EILL " BOTH ON EUROPEAN AND US SIDES AND " GIVE RISE TO HOPES OF REACHING CRITICAL SOLUTIONS." HE ENCOURAGED NAC TO EXPLORE PRINCIPLES FOR STANDARDIZATION, WITH FULL AWARENESS OF THEIR "POLITICAL CONTEXT", AND THEN TO SEEK CONCRETE RESULTS. IN THIS REGARD, HE
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SAID THE NAC SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OTHER FACTORS, SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED BY BEN COLLADAY, AFTER "POLITICAL" DECISION ON STANDARDIZATION PRINCIPLES.

5. DE ROSE (FRANCE) SAID HE WISHED TO " CONFIRM " THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS " QUITE READY TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL TO STUDY" STANDARDIZATION AT THE NAC LEVEL, AND THEREBY " BEGIN LAYING DOWN PRINCIPLES ON WHICH MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN." HE CAUTIONED THAT FRANCE WAS NOT MAKING ADVANCE COMMITMENTS TO EITHER STANDARDIZATION PRINCIPLES OR IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES AND SAID THAT FRANCE WOULD " JUDGE THEM ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE" AFTER THEY ARE DEVELOPED. DE ROSE THANKED BRUCE FOR INTRODUCING THE DISCUSSIONS, NOTING THAT PARIS WOULD STUDY THE US PROPOSALS VERY CLOSELY. DE ROSE EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD BE IN A POSITION " VERY SHORTLY" TO COMMENT ON BRUCE'S STATEMENT AND ON THE PRELIMINARY US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION" AND POSSIBLY, OFFER SOME FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS AS WELL. HE ASKED WHETHER US WANTED MINISTERS TO ENDORSE STANDARDIZATION PRINCIPLES IN FALL 1975 OR SPRING 1976. WHEN SYG LUNS SAID IT WAS DECEMBER 1975, DE ROSE SAID MINISTERS MIGHT GET ONLY A "PROGRESS REPORT" THAT EARLY. SYG LUNS AGREED, CALLING IT A " PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE" REPORT.

6. CATALANO (ITALY) THANKED US AND SYG LUNS FOR INITIATING STANDARDIZATION DISCUSSIONS AMONG 15. HE SAID THAT FRENCH PARTICIPATION WAS " VERY IMPORTANT"; THAT THIS WAS A " BIG MOMENT"; AND THAT, UNLIKE IN SOME EARLIER FOUR POWER DISCUSSIONS FROM WHICH ITALY HAD BEEN EXCLUDED, ALL ALLIES MUST NOW ADDRESS STANDARDIZATION PROBLEM TOGETHER. REFERRING TO THE NECESSITY FOR A " EUROPEAN POSITION" ON STANDARDIZATION" HE SAID THE EUROGROUP WAS CURRENTLY " WORKING ONE OUT" FOR PRESENTATION IN DECEMBER. CATALANO FORESAW NO CONFLICT BETWEEN ACTIVITIES OF PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE AND EUROGROUP. HE SAID THE STEERING COMMITTEE COULD "HARMONIZE" STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS IN VARIOUS QUARTERS. MISSION COMMENT: WE BELIEVE CATALANO WAS REFERRING TO HARMONIZING STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS BY NORTH AMERICA (US INITIATIVE) AND BY EUROPE (EUROGROUP AND, PERHAPS, FRANCE). END COMMENT. REFERRING TO IMPACT OF STANDARDIZATION ON INDUSTRIES, CATALANO SAID, "SOMETIMES, THE OPTIMUM IS THE ENEMY OF THE BEST." HE CAUTIONED THAT US SUGGESTIONS FOR A " RATIONAL EUROPEAN DEFENSE PRODUCTION CONFIDENTIAL

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BASE" (PARA VI, PRELIMINARY US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION, REF C) MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

7. AMB PECK (UK) ALSO WELCOMED AMB BRUCE'S PROPOSALS AND FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION IN THE NAC. PECK STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO SUPPORT THIS

INITIATIVE, NOTING THAT STANDARDIZATION IN THIS CONTEXT HAD
TAKEN ON A PARTICULAR DIMENSION INVOLVING PROCUREMENT OF
ARMAMENTS AND LONG TERM QUESTIONS OF COOPERATION IN RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT. HE NOTED THAT LONDON ALSO SAW THE NEED FOR
A STEERING COMMITTEE BUT CAUTIONED THAT ANOTHER BODY, THE
CNAD, STILL HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF
COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS. ALTHOUGH THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS
NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE "WIDER POLICY ASPECTS", THE TERMS OF
REFERENCE (TOR) OF THE CHAD MUST BE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY
IN DEVELOPING TOR FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE. PCEK
BELIEVED THAT RELATED WORK OF OTHER EUROPEAN FORA MUST PROGRESS
BUT SAW NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS WORK AND NAC EFFORTS IN
STANDARDIZATION.

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8. AMB HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE HIS
GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO RATIONALIZATION, SPECIALIZATION AND
STANDARDIZATION. ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC
REACTIONS TO THE US PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME, HE INDICATED HIS
AUTHORITIES WILL GIVE THEIR FULL ATTENTION TO THIS
MATTER. IN PARTICULAR, HARTOGH SAID THE NETHERLANDS WILL WANT
TO LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT THE US PROPOSAL FOR A STEERING
COMMITTEE. HE NOTED THAT NATO HAS MANY OTHER COMMITTEES TO
WORK ON THIS AREA, SUCH AS THE CNAD, MILITARY AGENCY FOR
STANDARDIZATION, MILITARY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE WORKING
GROUP AND DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE. HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER,
THE "WIDER CONSIDERATIONS" THIS NEW WORK MIGHT ENTAIL

(I E FRANCE). HARTOGH SUPPORTED PECKS VIEW THAT EXISTING WORK IN EUROPE MUST NOT STOP.

9. IN ATTEMPTING TO CLARIFY A POINT FOR HARTOGH, LUNS STATED THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE US PROPOSAL, THE US DOES NOT WANT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A NEW BODY. RATHER, THE STEERING COMMITTEE
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WOULD BE FORMED ONLY TO HELP THE NAC IN STANDARDIZATION WORK.

10. AMB KRAPF (FRG) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO HAVE A PROGRAM OF THIS TYPE TO ADVANCE STANDARDIZATION IN NATO. HE WELCOMED FRANCES PARTICIPATION AND , LIKE OTHER AMBASSADORS, SAW NO CONFLICT BETWEEN NAC WORK AND OTHER EUROPEAN EFFORTS IN THE SAME GENERAL FIELD.

11. DE ROSE THANKED PERMREPS FOR THEIR REMARKS ABOUT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN NAC STANDARDIZATION DISCUSSIONS, BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST DRAWNG ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS ABOUT FRANCES " FUNDAMENTA APPROACH" TO NATO. HE SAID, "OUR PROBLEM IS ARMS PRODUCTION AND STANDARDIZATION... WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF JOINING THE DPC... ALSO, YOU SHOULDNT INFER THAT OUR ATTITUDE TO EUROGROUP WILL CHANGE." POINTING THAT FRANCE HAS ALWAYS BELONGED TO THE CNAD, DE ROSE SAID FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION IN NAC WAS " NOT PARICULARLY SENSATIONAL OR INNOVATIVE." CONVERSELY, DE ROSE SAID THAT 15 ALLIES HAD INDEED RECOGNIZED INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS,AND, AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE US, WERE TAKING A " NEW APPRAOCH" RO THE PROBLEM. IN THIS SPIRIT, HE SAID FRANCE WAS " READY TO GO AS FAR AS NECESSARY," SO LONG AS IT "FUNDAMENTAL APPROACH" TO NATO WAS NOT CHANGED. HE SAID IT WOULD BE " COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE INDEED" FOR PERMREPS OR NATO INFORMATION SERVICE TO INTERPRET SUCH ACTION AS A "CHANGE IN BASIC FRENCH POLICY."

12. LUNS ECHOED DE ROSES WISH THAT ALLIES NOT JEOPARDIZE FRANCES PARTICIPATION IN NAC STANDARDIZATION WORK BY ASSUMING THIS WULD IMPLY A CHANGE IN BASIC FRENCH POLICH TOWARD NATO. LUNS THEN ATTEMPTED TO SUM UP, STATING THAT THE ISSUE FOR DECISION INVOLVED FORMATION OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF DEFENSE ADVISORS WITH MILITARY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION. THE ROLE OF THIS AD HOC COMMITTEE NEEDED TO BE DEFINED AND THIS WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER THOUGHT. LUNS ASKED AMBASSADORS TO SEEK REACTIONS FROM CAPTIALS SO THAT NAC COULD RETURN TO THIS MATTER IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

13. COMMENT: CONCERNING LUNS FINAL REMARKS, HE WAS NOT SPEAKING FROM A TEXT AND IT WAS UNCLEAR WHAT HE HAD IN MIND OTHER THAN
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TH ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME SORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE. AS A WHOLE,
WE ARE PLEASED AT FAVORABLE PRELIMINARY ESPONSES TO US PROPOSALS.
WHEN NAC NEXT MEETS ON THIS SUBJECT, WE EXPECT ALLIES WILL BE
ALBE TO SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE THE FORMATION OF SOMETHING N THE
NATURE OF A STEERING COMMITTEE ALTHOUGH WE MAY HEAR SOME VARIATIONS
AS TO COMPOSITION, FUNCTION AND TENURE OF THIS COMMITTEE.
WE ALSO EXPECT SOME INSTRUCTTED COMMENTS ON " PRELIMINARY US
VIES ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION." END COMMENT.
BRUCE

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